

Strengths In Silence Answer Key

Sample Responses

Identified Theme: *Respecting differences helps people work together effectively and appreciate each other's unique strengths.*

Supporting Text Evidence: Jay first judges Malik for being quiet but later praises his work by saying, *"That was all Malik."* This moment shows Jay's growth in understanding and valuing someone different from himself.

Sample Reflection Response:

This story reminds me of when I worked on a group project with a classmate who had a completely different style than mine. I liked moving quickly and sharing ideas out loud, while she preferred to plan and work quietly. At first, I thought we wouldn't get along, but her organization helped us stay focused and do a great job. Like Jay and Malik, I learned that respecting differences can make teamwork stronger. It taught me that people's quiet strengths can be just as powerful as loud creativity.

Teaching Tips:

- Begin with a discussion on what "respecting differences" means in school, family, or community life.
- Remind students that reflections should focus on **growth or realization**, not just summarizing events.
- Allow students to share reflections aloud to foster appreciation for diverse perspectives.

Extension Ideas:

- Create a classroom "Respect Tree" where each leaf lists one way to value differences.
- Have students write a short scene showing two characters learning to appreciate their differences.